

## CLAIMS

What is claimed as being new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is as follows:

1. A new and improved ball valve assembly for use in combination with a ground mounted fire hydrant, the assembly comprising in combination:

- a fire hydrant housing having a lower extent, an upper extent and an intermediate extent therebetween, a base flange secured intermediate the upper and lower extents for use in securing the hydrant to the ground such that the lower extent extends into the ground, three outlets formed within the upper extent of the hydrant;
- a water passage formed within the lower extent of the hydrant housing, three flexible fluid couplings, each of the fluid couplings interconnecting the water passage to one of the three outlets formed within the upper extent of the housing;
- a ball valve rotatably secured within the water passage a fluid passage formed within a diameter of the ball valve, the ball valve having a first orientation wherein the ball valve prevents the flow of fluid within the water passage, and a second orientation wherein fluid is permitted to flow through the fluid passage of the ball valve and within the water passage;
- a pair of rotatable control rods extending along the upper and lower extent of the hydrant housing, each of the control rods interconnected to a bevel gearing for use in controlling the orientation of the ball valve, thus rotation of the control rods in a first sense functioning to bring the ball valve into the first orientation, while rotation of the control rods in a second sense functioning to bring the ball valve into a second orientation.

2. A new and improved ball valve assembly for use in combination with a ground mounted fire hydrant, the assembly comprising in combination:

- a fire hydrant housing having a lower extent, an upper extent and an intermediate extent therebetween, a base flange secured intermediate the upper and lower extents for use in securing the hydrant to the ground such that the lower extent extends into the ground, a number of outlets formed within the upper extent of the hydrant;
- a water passage formed within the lower extent of the hydrant housing, a number of flexible fluid couplings, each of the fluid couplings interconnecting the water passage to one of the outlets formed within the upper extent of the housing;
- a ball valve rotatably secured within the water passage, a fluid passage formed within a diameter of the ball valve, the ball valve having a first orientation wherein the ball valve prevents the flow of fluid within the water passage, and a second orientation wherein fluid is permitted to flow through the fluid passage of the ball valve and within the water passage;

control means for effecting the orientation of the ball valve.

3. The hydrant as described in claim 2 wherein the control means includes:

- a pair of rotatable control rods extending along the upper and lower extent of the hydrant housing, the control rods being interconnected to the ball valve such that rotation of the control rods in a first sense functioning to bring the ball valve into the first orientation, while rotation of the control rods in a second sense functioning to bring the ball valve into a second orientation.